An Exploration of Cultural Turns in Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment Using Social and Political Approaches

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ABSTRACT:
Both cultural and social factors are believed to play a role in translating a text; however, in the present study, social factors are going to be explored. More specifically, the purpose of this study is to examine how manipulating cultures has been done in Bassnett and Lefevere's (1990, cited Bassnett 1998) approach and its adaptability to the target culture. In this study, a qualitative research approach was employed. A case study research design was used to analyze the selected corpus. In this research paper, we are examining and comparing the difference between the translations pre and post-cultural turn politically and socially. It was found that the highest level belongs to the omission factor before the cultural turn, but after that time the most significant one refers to the rewriting factor. There is a tiny fluctuation between two other factors. Much more investigation can be done on other source texts to see whether or not they have followed the same result to be able to reach a firm conclusion of the procedure a translation has been taking through the time. In addition, translations could be assessed based on their success in building good communication among their audience.

Keywords: Cultural Turns, Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment, Social Approaches, Political Approaches

1.INTRODUCTION:

Over the past few decades, translation has been studied as one of the indicators of cultural development. To achieve such an objective, as Lefevere (1992, p. 10) argues, "power and patronage, ideology and poetic" are connected with translation to highlight the existing ideology or poetic. Translation studies, if they are looked at from this particular perspective, can suggest strategies that develop cultures "to deal with what lies outside their boundaries and to maintain their character while doing so – the kind of strategy that ultimately belongs to the realm of change and survival, not in dictionaries and grammars" (Lefevere, 1992, p. 10). This line of argument could justify shifts in translation theories that were highlighted in each period of their emergence to meet the demands of expected needs. In the 1980s and 1990s, As Gentzler (2001, p. 70) suggests:

The two most important shifts in theoretical developments in translation theory over the past two decades have been 1) the shift from source-oriented theories to target-text-oriented theories, and 2) the shift to include cultural factors as well as linguistic elements in the translation training models. Those advocating functionalist approaches have been pioneers in both areas.

Having recognized the development of cultural turn theory in the early years of the nineties, Bassnett and Lefevere (1990, cited Bassnett 1998, p. 123) and Venuti (1995), considered culture and social background in translation. In this trend of the translation shift, there is more emphasis on extra-textual factors rather than a formalist approach. However, it is believed that paying attention to the factors beyond the text itself in translation studies had been examined much earlier than the nineties when Polysystem was proposed in translation (Even-Zohar, 1990; Toury, 1995; Holmes, 1994). There were many different aspects of translation and redefining translation theories from many perspectives and points of view in countries like Germany, Canada, Brazil, France, and India.

Although there have been a variety of perspectives, most of them are theoretical, in translation studies beyond the frame of text, it seems that cultural turn has not been examined in films, political texts, literary texts, novels, etc., to examine the implications and the effectiveness of these perspectives in the translations by observing the text beyond the source text.

The qualities of translation can be improved by employing some approaches such as studying cultural turns in different decades and various political, literal books or even novels. Moreover, surveying the translation before and after the cultural turn, and examining the social culture, economic culture, and educational culture, of the time of translation can also

improve our understanding of translation qualities. It appears that employing such an approach has been rare in translation studies. Therefore, in line with such an understanding of translation, the present study aims to explore the reasons and justifications for employing a cultural turn and possible differences in the quality of translation in Crime and Punishment (Dostoevsky, 1866) from the perspectives of social and political approaches.

2. Literature Review

Many surveys have been carried out to explain the progress of translation strategies throughout the years. Although plenty of them have been ignored, there are still lots of efficient theories proposed by scholars that assist translators to be able to transfer most aspects of the source text while not appearing weird in the target text.

From the most recent and prominent criteria proposed by some famous scholars like Bassnett and Lefevere which is known as cultural turn dating back to the 1990s, four critical methods in translation have been highlighted that are addition, omission, explanatory notes, and rewriting.

Richards (cited Nida 1993, p. 20) considers translating as "probably the most complex type of event in the history of the cosmos." Elements and factors which are taken into account through translation would determine the scope of the translation. In the present study, two important effective factors, i.e., political and social factors, are planned to be investigated in a widely read novel of Crime and Punishment. Political constraints of a country have direct huge impacts on the scope of translation, the decisions that the translators make, and how the points are seen and understood. Religion, elections, wars, geographical location, and many other factors influence politics. Sapir (1956, cited Mandelbaum, 1949) claims: "No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The words in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached."

The cultural Turn in translation studies was started by the development of Western academic thinking attitude. The term "turn" was first propounded by Snell-Hornby's (2006) overview of modern translation studies but it wasn't completely clear what it is and signifies in the translation studies' context and disciplines. Then Bassnett (1998) presented different concepts like "history,", "function," and "rewriting" and said that translation should be according to cultural requirements.

"The 'cultural turn' in translation studies has begun the process of examining how translation is nourished by and contributes to –the dynamics of cultural representation."
(Simon, 2009).

"The translator must tackle the source language text in such a way that the target language version will correspond to the source language version."

"… to attempt to impose the value system of the ST culture onto the TL culture is dangerous ground." (Bassnett, 1991).

To explore the role of cultural turn on the quality of translation in, two translations of *Crime and Punishment* (Dostoevsky, 1866) and the way that two different translators manipulate cultures and considering how much progression has happened for the translation after the cultural turn is examined. To manage this study, the corpus will be limited to three chapters of *Crime and Punishment*. The first three chapters have been selected randomly and there are the primary chapters to get familiar with the plot of the novel.

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

In this study, a qualitative research approach was employed. A case study research design was used to analyze the selected corpus. A case study is an appropriate way to compare different aspects of the research problem. According to this research design, we have selected Crime and Punishment (Dostoevsky, 1866) which has been translated before and after the cultural turn. To collect data we analyze the differences in the process of translation.

3.2. Corpus

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3.3. Instrument

Bassnett and Lefevere (1990) proposed many different approaches due to cultural perspective, like Translation, Rewriting, Manipulation, Cultural Capital, and the Circulation of Cultural Capital; Pseudo-Translation. There is a graph in "Innovative Thinking in Translation Studies: The Paradigm of Bassnett and Lefevere's Cultural Turn (Zhang, 2013, p. 1921); that is a clear and complete map of Bassnett and Lefevere's framework.

3.4. Procedure

In this research paper, we are examining and comparing the difference between the translations pre and post-cultural turn politically and socially.

Based on Bassnett and Lefevere's graph, we consider the last part of the graph to be manipulating cultures, which is divided into four parts. 1. culture-deficient information that addition will be used if one matter in the source language doesn't exist in the target language and the translator has to add something for more information, 2. Over-loaded information that omission will be used, 3. Explanatory note for Cultural-specific information when some cultures aren't identified in the target culture and 4. Rewriting for poorly organized

source texts culturally, according to this division, some examples of each method both politically and socially will be given, and the results will be shown on a bar graph and pie graph to see the percentage of using each method after and before the cultural turn.

4. Results and Discussion

In this research paper, we are examining and comparing the differences between the translations pre and post-cultural turn politically and socially. Based on Bassnett and Lefevere's graph, we consider the last part of the graph to be manipulating cultures, which is divided into four parts. 1. culture-deficient information that addition will be used if one matter in the source language doesn't exist in the target language and the translator has to add something for more information, 2. Over-loaded information that omission will be used, 3. Explanatory note for Cultural-specific information when some cultures aren't identified in the target culture, and 4. Rewriting for poorly organized source texts culturally, according to this division, some examples of each method both politically and socially will be given, and the results will be shown on a bar graph and pie graph to see the percentage of using each method after and before the cultural turn.

Zhang (2013) explains that according to Bassnett's (2004) and Lefevere's (2004) statements which are "the translator can at times, enrich or clarify the source language texts during the translation process" and "This fact is most apparent in the passages various translators insert in their translations, passages that are most emphatically not in the original", scholars can use the word 'addition', a manipulative word to simplify the communication.

Omission is the other method that is used by a translator when a piece of information in the source text has little value in the target text to avoid redundancy, a translator uses the omission technique which Lefevere (2004) refers it as "ideological omission".

A translator can use an explanatory note to ensure that the reader interprets the text correctly. Zhang (2013) mentions that "translated texts as such can teach us much about the interaction of cultures and the manipulation of texts ".

Lefevere (2017) declares that "rewriting can project the image of an author and/or a (series of) work(s) in another culture, lifting that author and/or those works beyond the boundaries of their culture of origin".

Based on these classified methods, this paper will evaluate some chapters of the book Crime and Punishment by two different translators before and after the cultural turn to see how they would work in a translation.

Figure 1 shows the levels of addition, omission, explanatory notes, and rewriting methods that were used by Lalezari before the cultural turn.

Overall, the largest proportion refers to the omission factor and the tiniest one is explanatory notes.

As it is clear, more than half allocates to the omission factor before the cultural turn. In the second place, the

rewriting factor used nearly a third, which are the most common factors used before that period.

On the other hand, a tiny fraction of the addition factor was used in that period translation, and the least used factor with 2.61% is allocated to the explanatory notes method.
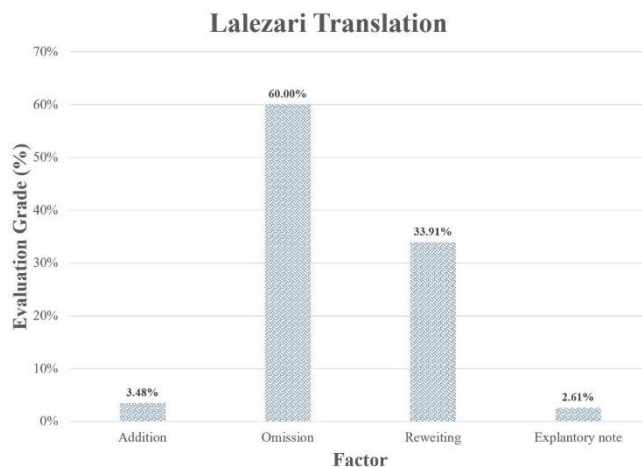

Figure 1. The levels of methods used by Lalezri before the Cultural Turn.

Figure 2 demonstrates the percentages of using the omission, addition, explanatory notes, and rewriting methods by Mehri after the cultural turn.

In sum, the most noticeable factor used in Mehri's translations is the rewriting factor, and the addition and explanatory factors tied in second place.

More than three quarters are allocated to the rewriting factor, and the omission factor with 7.84% comes in the second common factor used by Mehri before that period.

Both the addition and explanatory notes factors get a small minority among other factors.
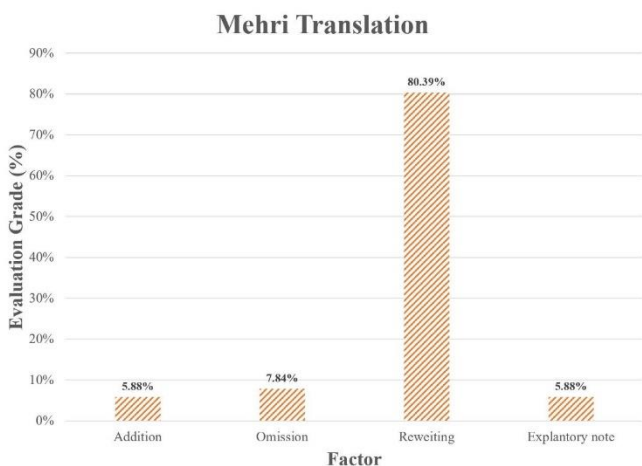

Figure 2. The levels of methods used by Mehri after the Cultural Turn.

Figure 3 illustrates the differences in the levels of using the omission, addition, explanatory notes, and rewriting factors by Lalezari and Mehri before and after the cultural turn.

To summarize, the most marked change belongs to the omission factor which was the most noticeable factor before the cultural turn, but a tiny proportion of using

this factor is seen after that period. Unlike the omission factor, the rewriting factor has the most significant level after the cultural turn.

The highest decrease was in the omission category, which saw a decrease of nearly 52%, from 60% before the cultural turn to 7.84% after the time. There was a sharp rise of about 48% in the rewriting factor, from 33.91% before the cultural turn to 80.39% after the period.

A tiny growth is seen for both the addition factor which was from 3.48% to 5.88% and the explanatory notes factor from 2.61% to 5.88%.
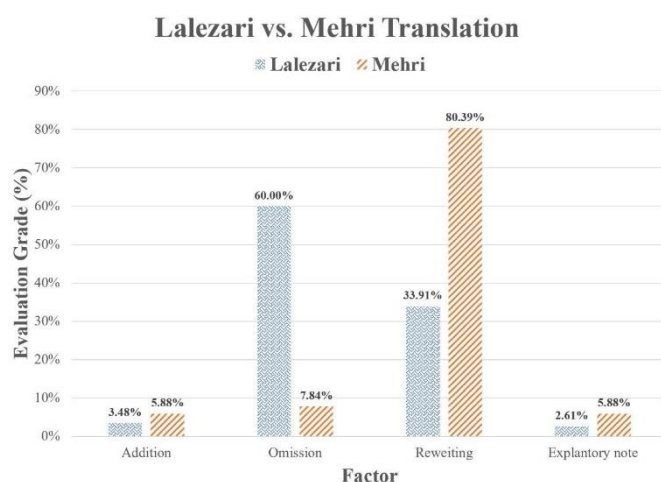

Figure 3. The comparison between Lalezari and Mehri's use of each method before and after the Cultural Turn.

5. Conclusions

Many scholars have been struggling with the most appropriate ways of translation over a long period. Although lots of research has been conducted, a lack of efficient translation can still be seen. Among all the linguists who were working on this topic, Bassnett and Lefevere are two scholars who proposed a new translation method. They have divided the translation period into two phases, before and after the cultural turn in the 1970s. They explained four factors that can be noticed while transferring a source text to a target text while maintaining the main idea of the original one. The four factors are omission, addition, explanatory notes, and rewriting by them.

In this article, the level of using these factors has been measured based on two translations of the same book by different translators before and after the cultural turn to see the changes of mentioned factors throughout the time and how the cultural turn has affected translation.

It was found that the highest level belongs to the omission factor before the cultural turn, but after that time the most significant one refers to the rewriting factor. There is a tiny fluctuation between two other factors.

Much more investigation can be done on other source texts to see whether or not they have followed the same result to be able to reach a firm conclusion of the procedure a translation has been taking through the time. In addition, translations could be assessed based on their success in building good communication among their audience.

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